

Small Group Discussion Questions Richland County

What is occurring in your community which addresses these responsibilities and areas for action?

- After school reading tutorial, writing skills, comprehension
- St. Martin in Fields adopted Crayton Middle School – homework center.
- Parent meetings
- MEBA – Midlands Ed. and Business Alliance- resources – speakers materials
- Community initiative to prevent teenage pregnancy.
- Commitment to collaboration between schools/non profits/ community.
- MEBA- attempt to communicate w/ work force and students needs.
- Collaboration between higher education and community/ schools in this area
- Parent resource centers (First Steps)
- Parent educators, 3-4 yr olds.
- Various forms of assessment to identify needs
- Implementation of EEDA
- Partnerships with tech schools/colleges
- Future teachers
- Early internships
- Recruit nationwide
- Increase pay and benefits.
- Increase virtual learning “any time and any where”
- Through chamber of commerce business are partnering with schools.
- Civic organizations are having members serve as mentors to children
- Many churches are becoming more active with student issues
- Neighborhood associations are also involved.
- Community involvement
- Churches
- City of Columbia
- R.C. Rec. Comm.
- Building Renovation
- Parent Education
- Schools as “full-service” facilities
- Expanded 4K education for students
- Expanded education opportunities for at risk students.
- State libraries have DISCUS for all students
- High schools that work

- After schools – faith based, schools, male success, TRIO
- Middle college
- 9th grade academy
- JAG (high school/ on-job training
- Middle/ elementary of school academy of science.
- Awards program / incentives from business community.
- Summer science camp
- Volunteer program
- TASC (teen after school/ center divert kids from DJJ Thru after school.
- Center of excellence for education and equipped for AA students.
- School choices within districts (alternatives-middle college, smaller learning environment, single gender.
- Facility upgrade
- Community focus on issues (substance abuse, gangs, truancy)
- Single gender classes
- University partnerships
- Professional development
- K-20 collaboration
- Community centers in schools

What are the critical barriers to fulfilling the commitment in your community?

- Parental involvement
- Media distractions television, video, music
- Alternative career path thru trade, tech schools
- Transitory families
- Unfunded mandates
- Flex time for parents to visit schools
- Welcome parents community involvement
- Communication
- Funding and real priority on education.
- Continuity in programs at district one.
- Focused inward and not reaching out yet.
- Families lack of approach to build family structure
- Spiritual and intellectual discipline
- High poverty level
- Transportation to parenting classes, services, etc.

- Stronger emphasis on birth-4 development
- SC image
- Community needs to step up (churches, businesses, civic
- Teacher pay-re-evaluate scale and experience
- Teacher flexibility/support structure.
- Lack of needed time and money are critical barriers.
- Parent involvement can be lacking, due to other demands on their time.
- So many people are resistant to change.
- So many bureaucratic demands limit what teachers can do.
- Increased diversity of students and families creates a barrier.
- Common will.
- Building capacity with a need for a supportive infrastructure.
- Highly qualified staff
- Recruitment to education
- Need for earlier behavioral interventions
- Changing population
- Retain staff
- Transportation/child care
- Lack of parental education
- Poor economy/ rural areas
- Lack of public relations
- Student motivation
- Education disconnect (lack of civic engagement)
- Resources / coordination
- Lack of understanding of diversity and ability.
- Positive communication with families.
- Issues no control-SAPS energy (truancy, drugs, tardiness, crime on campus, security, accountability).
- Building sense of community
- Economics/ economic development
- Resources to families

List the five most important things your community can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Community briefings to inform and solicit input
- Allow community use of schools without cost.
- More support for after school learning.
- Public service announcements information on where/how to get help.
- Mentor families

- Flex time for parents to visit
- Transportation schools / churches
- Group discussions aimed at uncovering state/ community needs.
- Faith based initiative to support public education/ students
- Help improve family unit
- Support with action, money, and public transportation
- Promote parenting skills and understanding of child development Birth-4 and 4K
- Support project hope and other groups working with teenagers in communities
- Use community resources (sr. citizens, get elected officials involved)
- Let teachers be more vocal
- Each person could be a bit more involved that her/she is.
- Demand of our elected officials that schools receive adequate funding.
- Find ways to make parents more accountable
- As individuals, we must be advocates to ask others to be more active in their local schools.
- Community meetings on this topic must continue.
- Supportive involvement with community dialogue.
- Volunteering
- College/ secondary institution
- Support of K-12
- Promote school as community service center
- Be realistic
- Marketing and promotions of best practices.
- Pool together local partnerships and resources.
- Mini-empowerment centers.
- Using public libraries as a community center
- Districts have a liason between school and church and civic groups.
- Use SIC, PTO, AND United Way...
- Incentives for achievement.
- Young parents after school program.
- Create responsive environment
- Building county aware.
- Forums (county, focus groups
- Develop plans of action / strategic
- More structure system.
- Mentoring.
- Rules of engagement (core values)
- Buy In
- Community engagement in school (business, retires, college-age)
- Consistency

List the five most important things you as an individual can do to address the responsibilities of Common Ground.

- Be informed
- Be involved
- Recruit involvement, educators
- Be positive
- Reach beyond comfort zone.
- Volunteer in schools
- Become actively involved.
- Business mentor
- advocate